

Leonard Cheshire - Royal Air Force Group Captain, winner of the Victoria Cross, D.S.O. and <sup>three</sup> D.F.C.S. Leader of No 617, the 'Dambusters' Squadron from 1943 until Victory in Europe, and one of the most remarkable <sup>men</sup> produced by the war.....

~~In 1939 he was 22, a daredevil. The son of a parson, and living;~~ <sup>(The son of a parson) He lived hard and shrugged off danger.</sup>

A brilliant leader destined to wreak havoc over Germany with his famous squadron.....

With that job done he went East - as an observer.....(SOUND)

That changed the world, and it changed Leonard Cheshire...(SOUND)

<sup>He was</sup> One of the ~~first~~ few men to see that early blaze of the atomic age. <sup>But</sup>

it took time - two years - and the sight of the destruction he had

helped to bring about to make that change. <sup>With the war over the</sup> ~~From brilliant extraordinary~~

~~man of war to dedicated visionary of peace with the service of~~ <sup>Pathfinder ace dedicated himself to a new mission - the relief</sup>  
~~of the sick & suffering~~  
~~men and at the side his mission.....~~

~~In 1948 he established the Cheshire Foundation to set up homes for incurables~~

In 1948 he established the Cheshire Foundation to set up homes for

incurables. And in 1957 <sup>lady Dorothy MacMillan laid</sup> the foundation stone of a new wing to the

third home, St. Cecilia's at Bromley <sup>Kent.</sup> ~~laid by Lady Dorothy~~

~~Macmillan.....~~ (SOUND)

Throughout the world that self help has been encouraged until today

there are 25 Cheshire Homes - 14 in Britain, 6 in India, 1 in

Malaya and others opening in Poland.....

~~For years Cheshire was a sick man, confined to his bed but determined~~

~~to continue to help others who suffer. To continue the work of~~

~~the Cheshire Foundation that marks him as a man with a vision.....~~

<sup>It's</sup> not been easy. Cheshire himself fell ill and for two years directed his schemes from a sick bed.

But his vision of real 'homes', and not institutions for incurably sick people never faltered. ~~And today~~  
~~at a new milestone it still looks down on.~~